

# Friendship

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The English News Magazine of the Diocese of Taiwan



Typhoon Morakot hit Taiwan on the weekend when we were all celebrating Fathers Day.

For us in Taiwan, August 8 (8-8 is pronounced ba-ba, the same pronunciation as 'father' hence the choice of this day for Fathers Day) will now always be remembered as the date of the worst typhoon to hit Taiwan for 50 years. The number '8' is significant in Chinese symbolism as meaning progress, and thought to be extremely lucky. Such a day should have been a day of great blessing, celebrating Fathers Day; instead it turned into a day of national disaster. This disaster has truly affected the whole country, filling us with sadness and concern for those affected.

We are so grateful to our brothers and sisters throughout the world, to churches, dioceses, and all our friends, for their outpouring of love, prayers and support at this time. We truly thank you all!

## BISHOP'S LETTER

### TYPHOON MORAKOT

We also thank and praise our Heavenly Father for guiding our brothers and sisters to go and help in the affected area. Those unable to go were generous in their financial support, and to all of you who kindly sent donations, we wish to express our sincere gratitude.

Taiwan's Ghost Month (the 7th lunar month: August 20-September 20) was a special month of prayer for Taiwan and for the typhoon victims. Thank you to those of you who have joined us in prayer at 8:08 pm every evening. May there be peace in people's hearts and minds. May we all know the leading of the Holy Spirit. And may Almighty God bless you as you have blessed us.



Bishop Lai visits diocesan volunteers at the Red Cross, in the days following Typhoon Morakot



## TYPHOON MORAKOT UPDATE

In the month following Typhoon Morakot, Bishop Lai sent out a series of personal updates, one each week for 4 weeks. These have been amalgamated into one, as follows:

When Typhoon Morakot arrived over the weekend of Saturday August 8, Taiwan was celebrating Fathers Day. We were expecting the north to get the worst of the typhoon as the centre was due to pass right overhead. While the rains soon stopped in the north, they continued on in the southern mountains where a dramatic 2.5 meters of rain fell in only 2 days.

As the disaster unfolded, it became clear that many lives (over 700) had been lost, homes and buildings buried, crops and livelihoods destroyed. Communications were severely disrupted and many mountain villages were inaccessible for weeks. People were very angry over the government's slow response and the excuses made by government officials trying to justify their incompetence and arrogance. However rather than resorting to violent protests and vandalism to vent their anger, instead the people of Taiwan offered to go themselves and volunteer to help. The Presbyterian Church alone sent out over 6,000 volunteers

in the first month, while the Buddhists sent out even more. We thank God for the amazing response of the people of Taiwan!

In the immediate days following the typhoon, we were grateful to learn that all our clergy, church members and church buildings were safe, for which we thanked God. I contacted all our clergy and let them know that financial help was available to them and any church members who were affected themselves, or involved in relief efforts.

My total budget for this relief effort is NT\$ 600,000 (about US\$ 18,000), and we are very grateful to The Episcopal Church for setting up the Episcopal Relief and Development Disaster Response Fund for donations.

In the month after the typhoon, during the summer vacation time, about 30 of our church members from St. Mark's Church, Ping-Tung and St. Timothy's Church, Kaohsiung volunteered to help with the re-





lief efforts. Most of them were working with a Christian charity organization (of which the Taiwan Episcopal Church is a member).

Much of this work involved clearing homes inundated with mud, also providing food and shelter to the many people affected by the typhoon. Rev. Justin Lin of St. Timothy's and Evangelist James Su of St. Mark's

coordinated our response and I encouraged all our churches to send teams of volunteers to join the relief effort, and promised to cover all expenses.

For the last few years, St. Timothy's Church in Kaohsiung has done outreach work in the township of Jia-Shian up in the mountains of Kaohsiung County. This is about 10 km from Shiao-Lin, the village most devastated by the typhoon, where a vast mudslide killed hundreds of people. The daughter of one of my high-school classmates (who is also a member of St. Timothy's congregation), is the principal of a kindergarten in Jia-Shian and through her contacts, St. Timothy's has held children's camps in 2 different elementary schools in the township during vacations. On the last Friday of August, 3 weeks after the typhoon, St. Timothy's held a gathering for elementary school students in the area. They were so pleased to report that a large number of children attended, and many of the children made commitments to follow Jesus. This ministry will now be followed up each Friday with a children's club in Jia-Shian.

At St. John's University, Taipei, one of the



students tragically lost his life when his car was swept off a broken bridge in Nantou County during the typhoon. About 70 of our university students live in the affected area, of which about 10 had their homes severely damaged and needed help. A group of our students went to Taitung on the east coast helping to clear mud and debris from an elementary school, and get it ready for the start of the new academic year on September 1. Another group of our students from the chaplaincy, together with church members, spent the weekend in Chia-Yi County helping the Red Cross with their relief efforts, mostly unpacking and sorting boxes of donated items, clothes, food, water etc (see accompanying photos) On the Sunday afternoon I personally went to visit them on my way home from a confirmation service at St. Peter's Church, Chia-Yi, to encourage and to pray for them.

All of our churches were very generous in their response to the financial appeal of the diocese for the emergency fund. At almost all our churches, as well as in the diocesan office, each member of staff donated one day's salary to the appeal. We used some of this money to help a mountainous village of indigenous people in Ping-Tung County



where the inhabitants include about 30-40 elderly people. We donated the money to pay for all their meals for a month, and for longer if necessary. Our target was to assist those people who were in need, and yet who were not being helped by other organizations and who were at risk of being neglected by the relief effort.

We also encouraged everyone to pray during the 7<sup>th</sup> Lunar Month, known as Ghost Month, starting at 8:08 pm every evening

(because the typhoon happened on 8/8), from August 20 – September 20. Taiwanese people believe that the gates of hell are opened on this day and the ghosts come out and fly around for a whole month. People make food offerings in the hope that the ghosts will eat the food and not

bother them again. Every year during Ghost Month there is a lot of fear in evidence and people will not do anything during this month like getting married, moving house, having surgery, even staying in hospital. The timing of Ghost Month, closely following the typhoon, meant that people were even more worried, nervous and fearful than ever. We expected that the Buddhists would use this opportunity to have large gatherings and to do their outreach. People had no peace, so we used this month to pray for the people of Taiwan, for their redemption, release from fear and praying that the Holy Spirit would touch their lives. We prayed that our joy and peace as Chris-

tians would be an effective witness to those who are living in such fear and darkness.

As the diocesan relief work continued, we also sent groups of volunteers to help in Lin-Bien, a coastal village in Ping-Tung County, which was severely flooded during the typhoon. The army was there in force, also helping.

A total of 12,000 soldiers gave assistance in the weeks after the typhoon. As time went



Petrol containers are delivered from the Red Cross by the St. Peter's Church minibus to the mountain areas of Chia-Yi County

on, one of the problems became the spread of the H1N1 swine flu virus among the relief workers in certain places, including many of the military servicemen involved. Others experienced health problems through the spread of infectious diseases and

through drinking polluted water.

During the first week of September, the Dalai Lama was invited by the southern counties of Taiwan to visit, in order to pray for the typhoon victims. Finally the President of Taiwan gave his permission, delayed due to his fear of a backlash from the people if he refused a visa, yet also aware of the reaction of Mainland China if he went ahead. In the event, while there were some protests and he was not welcomed by certain prominent religious and political leaders, on the whole he received a warm welcome. He showed himself to be humble, caring and very jolly. The humor came



when he was about to give a speech and a small table was removed from in front of him; the whole table fell to pieces, leg by leg, leaving everyone including the Dalai Lama laughing! He also met with R. C. Cardinal Paul Shan; this meeting was televised live and generated much interest.

The Dalai Lama brought a message of peace and harmony, and encouraged the people and government to show more respect for nature and for the environment. For too long we have exploited the natural environment for our own selfish purposes, and we are now paying a high price for this overuse and exploitation. Many of the mountainous areas suffered landslides due in part to replacing the original forest cover with betel nut trees, thus leading to more erosion and instability. Our Heavenly Father has given us the role of taking care and living in harmony with the natural environment, so we are working at ways to help communities to do this. This disaster has been a warning to the whole world, and to Taiwan in particular. We pray that we can learn from our mistakes and act for the future.

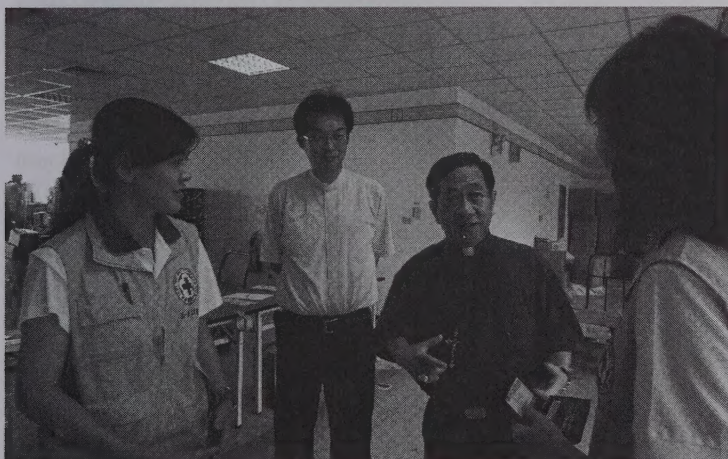
As the short-term relief came to an end, so it became time for long-term reconstruction



and restoration to start in earnest. We are working with a Christian relief organization and have the chance to go to set up projects and specific ministries. This is a long-term project, taking months, even years. We need wisdom, patience and God's guidance. Please join us in prayer for the restoration and reconstruction of Taiwan after this disaster.

Thank you to you all for your support and prayers for the people of Taiwan!

Rt. Rev. David J. H. Lai,  
Bishop of Taiwan  
September 2009



Bishop Lai and Rev. Keith Lee talk with the Red Cross officials in Chia-Yi



## MY OUTSTANDING DAY IN LIN-BIEN

By Shelagh Wynne

Lin-Bien, a small town near the coast in Ping-Tung County, southern Taiwan, was completely inundated with mud and water during Typhoon Morakot, up to a level of 1.5 meters. The Presbyterian Church in Lin-Bien coordinated a huge relief effort to help clean out homes and buildings. Shelagh Wynne, visiting Taiwan for 4 days on her first visit (she writes about the rest of her visit elsewhere in this magazine) writes about a day spent helping the relief effort.

On my first morning of 4 in Taiwan, Catherine Lee, (my mission partner colleague in UK Church Mission Society), asked me if I would like to clean. Yes- that is all she asked me. Of course as a nurse, I am usually willing to exterminate dirt, and thinking she had not had time to clean her home before I came, I nodded my head. I should have asked more questions! The next minute, Catherine is on her mobile phone, making travel, overnight and working arrangements (Thank you Rev. Lily Chang for doing everything!) for us to volunteer for one remarkable day in Lin-Bien, in association with the Presbyterian Church.

The next evening found us on the high speed train (tickets free for all those going to do relief work) - travelling at the astonishingly swift speed of 295 km per hour, and then met and taken to a comfortable hotel in Ping-Tung (kindly paid for by a Christian businessman in Taipei) sharing a room with 2 other volunteers, who happened to be Buddhists. These attractive 20-something's had volunteered on their weekly days off to help Typhoon Morakot victims, along with some

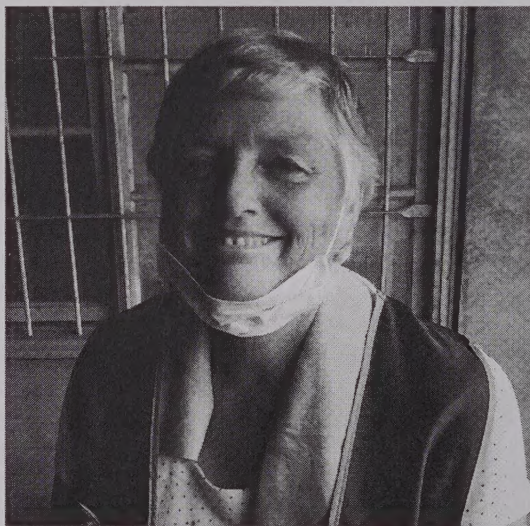
colleagues staying in the next room.

After a delicious breakfast, we were driven in 2 cars for about 40 minutes to the Presbyterian Church in Lin-Bien Township, where we were all supplied with boots, masks, gloves and a vest with the church's name. Then we were driven 10 minutes to Lin-Bien's bridge area, where we had to walk onto the closed bridge. We divided up,

and we 8 ladies walked to a 71 year old Christian couple's home. For two hours, 4 of us washed muddy, filthy household items outside, as the men took the remaining wheelbarrow loads of mud from the house, dumping the mud through an opening onto an empty field. Others used high-pressured water wands to

clean the court-yard, after doing the downstairs' area of the modest home.

Catherine was chatting to our hostess and this was her experience. After that August 8 night of rain and wind, she and her husband were praying that God would protect them in their home, positioned on the edge of the river, on a lane a bit away from the main





Lin-Bien street. Suddenly just before 5:00 am, they both heard a strange sound, and arose, and tried to come downstairs. Thick, dark brown mud was oozing through their downstairs' area, the weight of which had already flattened both their outside doors. The mud had inched up their walls and part-way up the stairs and then mercifully stopped- all in only 15 minutes' time! Such is their faith, that they immediately praised the Lord- despite this predicament of damage and the unknown. With electric lines knocked out and all of their food destroyed downstairs, they stayed hydrated by drinking water from their hot water tank, and ate nothing for 2 days. Then, on the 3rd day, Buddhist volunteers from the Tzu-Chi Charity came by in a boat and handed them lunch boxes which they received from their second floor balcony.

News that the roads were being cleared was cheering. But- our day there was a full THREE WEEKS after this unexpected typhoon struck! How happy this couple was to be able to have cleanliness and some order again! Yes- there were losses, but all material losses, and no injuries meant such a lot to them at their age. Their son is a Pastor in faraway America, and so was unable to come to support them. But, it was a witness to the military servicemen, now helping in their hundreds, to have these residential Christians be so well looked after by volunteer strangers.

A cereal snack presented by our lady and a lunch box from the Church's donors gave us sustenance before we were driven to another grandmother's home. Her 2 daughters were also there. We volunteers were all given rubber wipers from the Church to work as a team, conveying the filthy water down the corridor and out the front door. This was after the men had wielded their high-pressured water wand, washing down every room and thing in sight on the ground floor! This meant walls, furniture, floors, windows and screens, and took more than two hours of our joint effortful work! The

soldiers outside supplied the electric pump and the clean water, and our Team men carried the heavy buckets of water into the house, for suctioning through the wands.

Teamwork and orderliness were our watch words! The Army Captain especially waved to us 2 foreigners, as we left- mud-bespattered, perspiring and clutching our inevitable water bottles! We were tired! But the bridge was officially opened and we were picked up and driven back to the Church, to wash our gloves and boots, and change clothes. Sadly we shook hands with the other volunteers, as they had to drive 3 hours north and work the next day. May we Christians have been able to show them something of Christ's love!

My personal reflections? A remarkable first-hand experience! One sees much on the TV. One reads details from other countries. But until you have personally experienced bad smells, mud+++, the devastation of rotting household goods, sweated profusely as you labour endlessly on one seemingly endless task, and thought through how YOU would cope in that other person's place, you cannot really know the reality of such a life-changing event as this. As I perspired behind my mask, tears also fell, as I silently prayed for these folk. But then I remembered the large beautifully-framed gold and red wedding gift on the first couple's home. Catherine translated it for me. "But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord" from Joshua 24:15b. How true this couple's faith had been and is, after all of this past month's events. May our Loving Lord remain Sovereign in our hearts, so we can also accept all He allows us to go through, confident that He is in control!

(Written by Shelagh Wynne, whose experience includes nursing during the Gulf War in northern Israel, Taliban control in Afghanistan and the Maoist curfew restrictions in Nepal).



## OTHER DIOCESAN NEWS

The Spring Clergy Retreat was held May 12-14 in Kaohsiung, led by Archbishop Paul Kwong from Hong Kong. We warmly welcomed the Rev. James Isao Matsudaira from our companion diocese, the Diocese of Osaka, Japan who also attended the retreat.

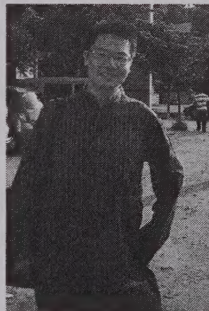
Over the weekend of May 22-24, Bishop and Mrs. Lai were guests of our companion diocese, the Diocese of New Westminster, Vancouver, Canada at their Annual Diocesan Synod. Bishop Lai's address to the Synod is published in this edition of Friendship.

On June 15, St. John's University was honored to receive a visit from the Very Rev. David O'Connell, President of our sister school, the Catholic University of America, together with Provost James Brennan and a delegation of professors.

The Diocese of Taiwan warmly welcomed the visit of the Jubilee Youth Chorale from Our Saviour Church, New York, led by Mr. Peter Ng. The highlight of their visit to Taiwan from June 27 to July 3 was the concert that they performed in the Cultural Center opposite St. James' Church, Taichung on the evening of June 30. The Concert Hall was full and everyone really enjoyed the experience!

Five delegates from the Diocese of Taiwan, including Bishop Lai and his wife, attended the General Convention of The Episcopal Church in Los Angeles from July 8-17. Tim Pan's report is published in this edition of Friendship.

Seminarian Joseph Ho (seen in this photo in his Indian dress) took part in the Face to Face Program of the Council For World Mission. He studied at the United Theological College in Bangalore, India from



August 3 to September 19.

The first-ever diocesan overseas mission trip was led by Rev. Lennon Chang and his wife. The group of 19, mostly young people, visited the Diocese of West Malaysia from August 24 to September 1.

Bishop David Lai has been invited by Chinese Global Network Television (CGNTV) to record a series of 16 ten-minute sermons for broadcast worldwide. This is a Korean TV company, and it also broadcasts the sermons over the internet. During the recordings, which are recorded 4 sermons at a time, the preacher is not allowed to look at any notes! Starting September 2009, the sermons are being broadcast every Monday at 12 noon, Taiwan time.

At the time of writing, Bishop Lai and his wife are in New York for the wedding on September 12 of their younger son, Andrew, to Sarah Huang. The wedding is taking place at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Forest Hills, New York. We send Andrew and Sarah many congratulations and best wishes for their new life together.

Bishop Lai will visit Japan from September 21 to 29, for the 150th anniversary celebrations of the Protestant Church in Japan, followed by the CUAC (Colleges and Universities of the Anglican Communion) Pacific Chapter Meeting, and then a weekend visiting our companion diocese in Osaka.

And finally, in the previous Friendship Magazine it was incorrectly stated that Mr. Winston Yu worked for the National Institute of Health, whose HQ are in the USA, located at Bethesda, Maryland. Actually he works at Taiwan's National Health Research Institutes. We apologize for this mistake.



**“Being Faithful Servants of God”**  
**Spring Clergy Conference at Kaohsiung: May 12-14, 2009**  
**By Rev. Diane Wong**

We were extremely honored to have the Most Reverend Peter Kwong (shown in the photo with Bishop Lai), retired archbishop of the Anglican Church of Hong Kong, be among us and serve as keynote speaker for the 2-day conference.

How can we be faithful servants of Christ?

Archbishop Kwong reminded all clergy that while we have inherited Jesus' ministries, the entire Church also shares in the ministries of Jesus Christ; therefore it is important for the Church to listen to Christ's voice as one, and be the one Body of Christ. Without this unity, the ministry of Christ will be a fragmented ministry. If we maintain an individualistic stance, ignoring the oneness of the Body, there will be plenty of faithful servants, but it will be very difficult to accomplish God's mission. As one Body, we can lead the world along God's path.

In ministering to the world, we must be sensitive to the needs of the world; we must also be sensitive to the evils of the world; and as the one Body of Christ, cooperating and collaborating together, we can shed the light of Christ in the dark places of the world.

Being faithful servants is about being the individual true selves that God has created, called, and formed; it is not about playing a role. We ground our being in God; pray daily, and put our lives in God's hands; relying on the Divine entirely.

We are to be loving and forgiving; to respect everyone; treat everyone the same regardless of status and wealth. Being faithful servants is the work of a whole lifetime; we will err and we will miss the mark; the important thing is to do our best always.

There will be suffering and sacrifices; these are unavoidable, as Jesus Himself also suffered and sacrificed his life for us.

A faithful servant must also know how to prioritize and make the best use of time; so learn to delegate and share ministry. The goal is to lead the church to affect society. We must spend time to understand the Word of God more deeply; so

that more of what we do is to God's liking; and so we can share the wisdom of the Word more deeply with the laity. Let the Word of God continually form us and transform us.

The Reverend Elizabeth Wei who attended the conference commented that this conference was like a bountiful feast; we were fed and nourished by Archbishop Kwong's experience and wisdom; which provided sustenance and direction for our lifelong servanthood.



*Come Holy Spirit*



## “About the impressions of the retreat”

### The Rev. James Isao Matsudaira from the Diocese of Osaka, Japan

From May 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> I participated in the clergy retreat of the Taiwan Diocese. During my four days' stay, I not only heard wonderful lectures from the Archbishop, the Most Rev. Peter Kwong, but also met wonderful clergy in Taiwan.

“How to be a faithful servant” was the subject of the lectures by the Most Rev. Peter Kwong, and he provided a bold talk separated into four sessions. The theme seemed at first glance to be very basic. However, it became rich and deep in content as the Archbishop shared his experiences of being a priest for over 45 years.

In addition, the retreat became even more varied in content as we listened not only to the lectures of the Archbishop but also to members of the Taiwanese Anglican Church sharing about their professions as medical doctors and as a large-scale ship captain.

The retreat started each day with Holy Communion in the early morning, and continued non-stop until 9:00pm each night.

The retreat was really so wonderful. I was surprised to hear that this type of retreat for clergy is held twice a year in the Taiwan Diocese. I not only felt seriously challenged by the dedication and zeal shown by God's faithful servants in the Taiwanese Diocese, but I also learned so much personally about how to be a faithful and ‘ideal’ priest.

I enjoyed countless blessings and memorable experiences during the retreat in Taiwan. I hope the blessings I received will inspire me to do my best for mission and ministry in Japan, and hope that the Taiwan diocese and the Osaka diocese will continue to encourage each other through prayers for each ministry and mission.

### CONGRATULATIONS to our 2 diocesan seminarians who graduated from Fu-Jen R. C. University in June.

Mr. Philip Ho (seen here with his wife and daughter to the right of Bishop Lai) has been assigned as evangelist at St. James' Church, Taichung, while Mr. Simon Tsou (seen here with his wife to the left of Bishop Lai) has been assigned as evangelist to St. Andrew's Kindergarten, Jie-Ding, and to St. Paul's Church, Kaohsiung.





**‘MISSION IN THE HOLY SPIRIT’: Diocese of New Westminster Synod**  
**May 22, 2009: Bishop Lai’s address**

The Dioceses of Taiwan and New Westminster have now been companion dioceses for 9 years, and on behalf of the Diocese of Taiwan I bring greetings to you from all our diocesan brothers and sisters in the Lord. I want to thank Bishop Michael for inviting me to share with you at such an important occasion as this, the opening service at your synod. The last time I shared with you at your synod was exactly 9 years ago! In these 9 years I have visited your diocese 3 times, and after each visit I have thanked God for his mercy, grace and blessing on your diocese.

Our Diocese of Taiwan and your Diocese of New Westminster are united in a common goal of mission by both words and action. Mission in action is both our duty and responsibility as Disciples of Christ. Because of the resurrection and ascension of Christ, because of the Great Commission, because of Christ’s teaching in John 3:16 that “God so loved the world that He gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life”, and because of the witness of the apostle Paul, we are all called to mission. Each of us is called to use our renewed lives to obey the 2 great commandments, to love God and to love our neighbor.

It is because of the resurrection of Christ that Christians throughout history have devoted themselves in humility and obedience, through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to truly do mission in action. The number of Christians in the world started from 12, went to zero, then to 11, until today there are about 2 billion people who call themselves Christians, about one-third of the whole world. In Asia the only country that is predominantly Christian is the Philippines, which has been Roman Catholic for about 350 years. The rest of Asia follows their own traditional religions, Taoism, Buddhism, Shintoism and folk relig-

ions.

My understanding of these religions is that they all have the following characteristics: They are closely related and set according to the people’s lifestyles, culture, ethics and customs. For example all authority came down from the emperor through his officials to the common people. The emperor was also considered to be a god, and just as he had many officials, so too there are many gods.

Asian religions satisfy people’s expectations and desires for a long life and many blessings.

In Asian religions, people only pray to the idols for their own needs, never for others.

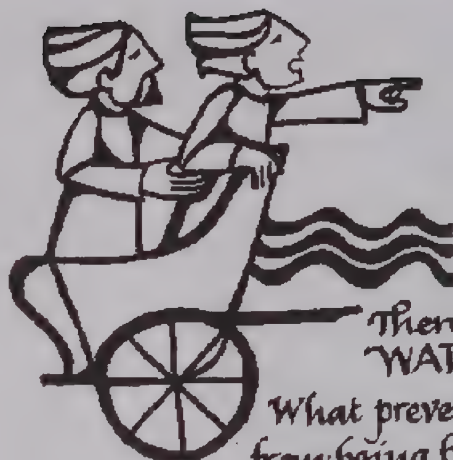
They never have any mission action. People come to the temple; they never go out to evangelize others.

During the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Christianity came to Taiwan through Catholic and Presbyterian missionaries. Those missionaries really experienced incredible difficulties, dangers and challenges. Perhaps the most famous of those missionaries was the Rev. George MacKay, a Presbyterian missionary from Canada. When he preached on the street, people threw human waste and manure at him. In our culture this is the worst and most offensive thing you can do to someone, similar to throwing shoes in Iraq. Praise the Lord that the early missionaries were so filled with the Holy Spirit and with love that they had victory over Satan and the spiritual attacks, and went on to establish the church in Taiwan. That was over 150 years ago.

The population of Taiwan is now about 23 million, yet only 4.5% are Christians. Despite the small numbers, the witness of Christians for those 150 years is still very much appreciated and admired by the majority of the other religions in Taiwan. The



schools, hospitals, training centers for disabled people, all these are an example of mission in action. We Christians realize that we are a minority in our society and we know that whether at work or home we are always being watched by others. We also know that we must depend on the Lord to shine as lights to the glory of God and to the benefit of mankind.



As Diocesan Bishop, I came to realize just why Christians in Taiwan have not been able to proclaim the good news and to participate in mission. Many Christians in Taiwan do not let their families and relatives know that they are Christians. They do not know the truth and the catechism very clearly. They really do not have enough knowledge of the word of God. They do not feel good enough to be ambassadors of the gospel, or to be soldiers of Christ, so they prefer to hide themselves away. They are neither hot nor cold, rather they are lukewarm Christians. They are not shining in the darkness. This is a problem for all churches in Taiwan. So after much prayer, over these last 9 years, I have started many 'mission in action' programs in my diocese.

1. Every 3 months I recommend 2 or 3 spiritual books to our congregations to read and discuss in small groups.
2. I encourage parishioners to read the Bible daily.
3. We have regular tests on Bible knowledge. This started in 2004 when we celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our diocese and at the celebrations we had a test on the names of 200 people mentioned in the Bible, to encourage people to learn about the characters in the Bible. We have continued for the last 4 years and each season we have a Sunday text exam using multiple choice questions. We have prizes and awards for

individuals, families and whole churches.

4. We encourage everyone to have their own Bible and to bring it to church. For this reason, we no longer print the Bible readings out fully on the church bulletin or on the overhead power point. We want everyone to read their own Bibles and to get used to using them regularly.
5. Each church has its own mission course according to their needs. For example our cathedral is now running its 9<sup>th</sup> Alpha course, and others are doing Emmaus.
6. During the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations we gave every Christian family one of these memorial crosses to place in their homes on display. This is to remind them to read the Bible daily, to witness to their relatives and visitors, and to show that they are a Christian family. I also encourage them to share daily Bible readings together as a family and to share in readings and prayers at work.
7. I encourage our parishioners to catch any opportunity to say a prayer and to share the gospel in public, on the telephone, at work or at home.

After this mission in action for many years, we realize that our parishioners' spiritual lives have gradually strengthened and grown. They are standing firm in the gos-



pel, they are more joyful, peaceful and have more courage to proclaim the good news and to witness. They are also much more active to participate and to serve in the church.

Starting this year, our diocese has a 5-year plan for mission.

2009: Training

2010: Worship

2011: Whole Family coming to Christ

2012: Service

2013: Evangelism

To reach our mission goal, I have challenged each of our smaller churches to grow itself into a parish, and each of our parish churches to plant a new church, and to grow that into a parish. Our vision is that in 10 years, we would have double the number of parish churches, and then to become 2 dioceses.

Since I have been Diocesan Bishop, the only thing I have actually requested from the Lord is to ask him to let the Holy Spirit touch and move people to offer themselves in full-time service as a seminarian, evangelist or ordained priest. I have asked God for one such person to come forward every year to make up our shortage of manpower. God has blessed us, every year we have had an ordination service, and most years we have had more than one person being accepted for ordained ministry in the diocese.

At present we have 4 seminarians in training and 2 more due to start this year. Because of our small size, we do not have our own seminary or theological college; instead we use the Presbyterian Theological College and the Roman Catholic Seminary.



We use both! Maybe you would like to know how I select where a seminarian will study. Well, if the person is an extravert then I send them to the Roman Catholic Seminary to deepen their spiritual life, and if they are introvert, I send them to the Presbyterian College so that they can learn to be more outgoing and evangelistic.

I also give all our ordained clergy a chance to study overseas, and encourage them to attend international conferences and training programs. Our clergy have all studied in different countries for a semester or a year, and this range of international experiences has enriched our diocese. Recently 2 of our clergy have spent a term each studying in Hong Kong. I especially want to thank the Diocese of New Westminster for your welcome to Rev. Justin Lin who came to your diocese 3 years ago to do advanced study at the Vancouver School of Theology. This training has been very valuable to our clergy and to our diocese as a whole.

We also value clergy retreats in cooperation with other dioceses, for example, Hong Kong, Malaysia and Singapore. Even when we have our own clergy retreat, like we did earlier this month, we invite leaders and bishops from

*A tree planted  
near running  
water, that  
yields its fruit  
in due season,  
and whose leaves  
never fade*

other countries to lead us. We have also hosted the Church Council of East Asia meetings, the Province VIII bishops as well as the Annual Convention of the Episcopal Asia-America Ministry. The young people's exchange visits between our diocese and yours have been great, and we hope for more in the future. We would like your young people to come to Taiwan to run the youth camp in the summer if that is possible. A few years ago, Rev. Graham Witcher came from your diocese to serve as priest at



Good Shepherd English congregation in Taipei, and we really appreciated his years of service. Now we need another priest for next year when the present priest leaves, so if you can help us, we would be so grateful! We also appreciated the visit of Bishop Michael in 2005 during our synod.

What we have done in Taiwan as mission in action we have done with your help. You have faithfully shared with us in prayer and intercession, and we very much appreciate it. Thank you for your prayers for our mission!

I do realize that your society and culture is different from ours in Taiwan. You have many challenges that are completely different from us. And yet we all have the same burden and heart to reach out to people with the gospel. When you humbly obey the teaching of the Lord and commit yourselves in prayer, then God will bless you and guide your diocese to break through all the difficulties that you face. In today's reading

from Ephesians 1:13, Paul says: 'In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.' If you truly run the mission for the Lord, then God will surely bless you all and give you victory over Satan. In Psalm 47:2 it says: "For the LORD, the Most High, is awesome, a great king over all the earth." To further encourage you, may I also add Isaiah 40:31: "But those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."

I hope and pray that our 2 dioceses can work together even more closely to be more dependent on the Lord to shine as lights in the world and to benefit mankind.

May the Lord, Almighty God, give you His blessing and his mercy and grace, and may his blessing continue forever. Amen.

**VISIT OF JUBILEE YOUTH CHORALE FROM OUR SAVIOR**  
**CHURCH, NEW YORK: Cultural Center, Taichung**  
**June 30, 2009**





**76th GENERAL CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH,**  
**July 8-17, 2009, Los Angeles, USA.**  
**Report by Taiwan Delegate Mr. Tim Pan, Good Shepherd Church.**

**Ubuntu – I in You and You in Me**

It was indeed an honor of mine to be elected as a lay delegate to the 76th General Convention held in Anaheim, California, July 8 – 17, 2009. The long history of the General Convention started in 1785, only a few years after the United States was founded. Since then, this triennial gathering has not only contributed to the formation and transformation of the Episcopal Church but also addressed difficult religious and social concerns and issues.

When I was young, my father came back from the General Convention and told me it was “big but divided.” The controversy in his time must have been women’s ordination. With my father’s words in mind, I thought I was prepared. However, the ten-day experience still overwhelmed me. On the one hand, I was amazed by the efficiency of the meetings and dedication of the participants; but on the other hand, I was stunned by how vulnerable a church can be to a single issue that doesn’t seem so relevant to our daily lives.

“Ubuntu,” the theme of this year’s General Convention, originates from the Bantu languages of Southern Africa. It can be interpreted as: “I in you and you in me.”

Archbishop Desmond Tutu once

said: “A person with Ubuntu is open and available to others, affirming of others, does not feel threatened that others are able and good, for he or she has a proper self-assurance that comes from knowing that he or she belongs in a greater whole.” The first Ubuntu that I experienced there was how a thousand people could effectively discuss hundreds of difficult topics in ten days. The General Convention comprises two houses: the House of Bishops, made up of the diocesan bishops, and the House of Deputies, consisting of up to four laity and four clergy representatives from each diocese. More than a thousand people were involved in approving any resolutions. They debated, voted and sometimes emotionally pleaded, but everyone followed the rules. The chairperson was powerful and unbiased; deputies were civil and speaking to the point.



Delegates from the Diocese of Taiwan: from left: Rev. Justin Lin, Mrs. Yen Hui-Chuan, Bishop and Mrs. Lai, Mr. Tim Pan Tien-Yo



As a representative from an overseas diocese, I truly admire the democracy of American standard. I believe respecting other people, especially those who don't agree with us, is a foundation of Ubuntu.



the relationship with the wider Anglican Communion but also solidarity within. In the past few years, four dioceses including the majority of their members and leadership have left the Episcopal

A second amazing Ubuntu experience was having Holy Eucharist with ten thousand people. Episcopalians from Los Angeles and other parts of the US attended Sunday service with the delegates on July 12. A traditional Anglican service flew so well: the service started with a procession of all bishops and a band of Korean youths playing traditional drums; the Presiding Bishop celebrated the Eucharist and gave the sermon; choirs of different styles led a total of twelve hymns; woman delegates from all dioceses presented their UTO offerings, and ten thousand people took Communion. Most amazingly, all the above was completed in 90 minutes! I don't know why it made me think of Jesus feeding five thousand people: the crowd, the bread from heaven, and the interdependency of the crowd sharing bread.

When it came to burning issues, however, the spirit of Ubuntu was challenged. Trying to resolve current tensions between the Episcopal Church and the wider Anglican Communion on the issue of opening ordained ministry to gay and lesbian people, the General Convention invited the Archbishop of Canterbury and several Primate from different countries as observers. They sat quietly in meeting rooms listening to debates on the so called LGBT (i.e. lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people) issues. The Archbishops might have been disappointed at most of the results, but the invitation and their presence have shown a hope. Arguments on LGBT hurt not only

Church. Some conservative parishes left their liberal dioceses; parishioners left their churches. I understand it being a very difficult dilemma – on the one hand, nondiscrimination has been a basic value of American churches and society, but on the other hand, a marriage of biblical teaching must not be tampered with. I don't know how God will end this controversy, but I can pray, for the church and for those who have been hurt.

The Presiding Bishop told a story in the opening service. She recalled participating in the consecration of a female bishop, whose father was a retired bishop. For many years, the father insisted that women should not be ordained. He didn't go to his daughter's ordination, and he had never taken communion from her over the more than 25 years that she served as priest. However, the father went to his daughter's consecration and celebrated with her. The Presiding Bishop asked the daughter how her father had come to change his mind. She answered: "He didn't change his mind; he changed his heart."

I may not agree with you, but in Christ, I love you. I guess that is the spirit of Ubuntu.

*Tim Pan is a lay delegate representing the Diocese of Taiwan to the 76th General Convention. He serves in the diocese as President of the Standing Committee and is a member of the Church of the Good Shepherd in Shilin, Taipei.*



**FACE TO FACE: COUNCIL FOR WORLD MISSION, 2009**  
**Seminarian Joseph Ho in United Theological College, Bangalore, India**  
**August 3—September 19, 2009**

I am so grateful to God and to Bishop Lai and Rev. Samuel Liao (my spiritual tutor) that I was accepted for the Face To Face Program through my school, Tainan Theological College and Seminary. Now I'm in India with my 10 classmates from 9 countries: UK, Netherlands, Zambia, Madagascar, Myanmar, Taiwan, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Nauru. We are being exposed to the many issues and lifestyles of India itself, with the hope of understanding them and learning from them for our future ministry.

For me, the program is very interesting. Because I love culture, different kinds of culture. You can see the culture everywhere, from people eating, the clothes they wear, when they drive and even when they are shopping in the streets. The Indian experience has been so wonderful.

Even eating in India is very different. Here they usually use their hands, in particular the right hand. So I have tried to also adapt to the culture by using my hands when eating. The food is special. Many of the Indians are vegetarian. They also use vegetables in a lot of cooking, such as curry which is very spicy. Chicken is the general meat in India, because Muslims do not eat pork, and Hindus believe cattle are holy so do not eat beef. And their meal times are also different, lunch between 1:00 –2:00 pm, dinner time between 7:30 - 9:00 pm. These times seem odd for us and often a little late but it is because they usually have what they call “tea time” in between. India people love to drink tea or coffee!

Apart from the food, India has many other aspects which portray their culture, their clothing in particular. Women wear saris, and the men wear Tatu. However you also see a lot of men in the street wearing suits or just a shirt and trousers while the women still wear the traditional clothing. Many of

the people, both men and women mark their foreheads with a red spot or line as a sign of their religion. Traffic in India is also a big surprise for me. All drivers love to use their horns! They beep their horns when they stop, when they pass other cars, when they see other cars moving again. I can't believe it. In the streets of India, it's just like a symphony with a very bad conductor!

I have now spent a month in India. We have been to Bangalore, Mizoram and Calcutta. I have had many different experiences from different places. In India, only about 2% of the population is Christian. There are about 80% Hindus. The churches are united under “CNI” & “CSI” (Church of North India & Church of South India). But when we went to Mizoram, it was totally different. In that part of N.E. India, Christians are more than 90% of the population and most of the strong churches are Presbyterian Churches. After visiting Mizoram we fell in love with the place. It was very different. On Sunday, they have three worship services in one church: morning, afternoon, and evening. And no shops open on Sunday. People just go to church, then back home to have tea, or take a rest, then go to church again. No one goes shopping or any sort of work. They just GO TO CHURCH. Even Christian bookstores are closed. People there love to sing, and do it really well!

This Indian experience makes me think a lot. It is good being here, and the best thing is the people here. For them, it is hard to solve problems of women rights, because different religions have different views. Poor people are very disadvantaged and the caste system plays a major part in their lives; it just follows you in your name and your hometown. It's hard to avoid this in India. I have learned so much! May God bless you all.



## DIOCESAN OVERSEAS MISSION TRIP TO THE DIOCESE OF WEST MALAYSIA

August 24—September 1, 2009

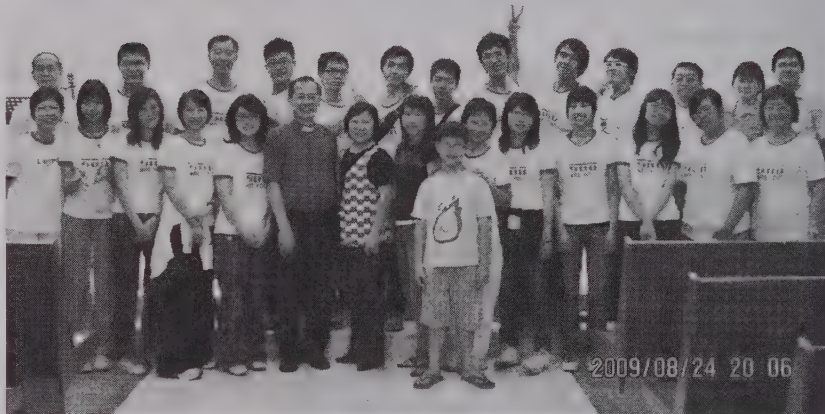
In 2005, the Diocese of West Malaysia was one of the overseas dioceses invited to join in a joint clergy retreat, hosted by the Diocese of Taiwan and held in Wan-Li, northern Taiwan.

The Rev.

Stephen Chan and his wife, Pastor Ming-Ming (both presently at Sunway Damansara Anglican Centre, Selangor, West Malaysia) attended that retreat. Afterwards they visited Advent Church, and they invited our rector and university chaplain Rev. Lennon Chang to bring a team of young people to visit West Malaysia to share the gospel. In 2006, the clergy met again at the joint clergy retreat in West Malaysia.

Both Bishop Lai from Taiwan and Bishop Ng Moon-Hing (Huang Man-Shing) of West Malaysia encouraged this mission adventure. The preparation of the team took 3 years. During those 3 years, the young people have all participated in the short-term mission program of the Diocese of Taiwan, leading children's summer camps in the churches around the diocese.

Bishop Ng was previously an archdeacon of the Diocese of West Malaysia and was responsible for the outreach and pastoral care of the indigenous peoples. He had over 30 indigenous villages under his care. On this trip the Taiwan group visited indigenous people in the Ipoh area, based at Peace Church, and reaching out to 8 indigenous villages nearby. On the night of our arrival in Our Saviour Church in Kuala Lumpur,



Bishop Ng, his wife and daughter came to welcome us and pray for us (see photo). On that day too we were given over 3 hours of Malay lessons, and we learned to sing Malay choruses. Even though we needed to rely on translation for everything else, when it came to singing, the Taiwan team and the indigenous people were of one heart and one mind. We truly felt that we were one family in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Rev. Lennon Chang reports that this experience has really opened up the minds and hearts of the young people on the Taiwan team. They have learned so much about faith. The indigenous people in Malaysia are poor, with no electricity, little health care or infrastructure, and our young people have now seen firsthand how they need to rely on Almighty God for everything.

The team from Taiwan comprised a total of 19 people. One was from Trinity Church, Keelung, and another from St. James' Church, Taichung. The others were all from St. John's University Student Fellowship and Advent Church.

We give thanks for the financial support for this mission, which came from the diocese, Advent Church and St. James' Church.

## The Graceful Trip to Malaysia

*The following article is written by one of our Taiwan team members: Ms. Rebecca Chen Bai-Jia. Rebecca is from a Christian family and is now entering her 4th year at St. John's University in the Dept of Applied English.*

This trip to Malaysia was a grace from heaven. First of all, Pastor Chang helped us to get the money needed for the trip. He asked almost nothing from us, just two simple speeches of testimony. Even now, I think I did not deserve to go. But by God's grace, Pastor Chang gave me the chance to go to Malaysia, to see another world, to get to know the people in the mountains with their wonderful hearts for Jesus, and to enjoy the time with the Lord.

On August 24, 2009, we got up very early to take the flight to Malaysia. Pastor Bao

and Pastor Zeng came to the airport to pick us up and take us to "Our Savior Church" where we stayed before and after we went to the "Kampong" (which means the village of the indigenous Malaysian people). Pastor Bao provided us with a suitable place to stay and a nice teacher to teach us Malay hymns. The teacher, Eddy, taught us 5 songs. We didn't pronounce them very well actually, but he kept teaching us to sing the songs we knew from Taiwan. 3 of the songs we sang in almost every Kampong we went to.



The Taiwan Team with the Malaysian children:  
Rebecca is the one on the far left in the back row.



On August 25, Eddy took us to take “the railway” (which is similar to the MRT system in Taiwan) and to get the bus to Ipoh. After we got to Ipoh, there were 2 theological students who came to help us to translate Chinese into Malay. After we gathered together, 3 vans were driven for us to go up to the mountains. We took the van to the first Kampong. There in the first Kampong was God’s grace waiting for us. While we had some activities with the kids, the adults prepared the delicious dinner for us. They kindly considered that we might not fit their food, so they thoughtfully prepared Malaysian-style Chinese food for us.

There was a big challenge for us there also; we had to wash in the river near the church at the first Kampong. Eddy said “just jump into the water, then your body will be clean and your clothes will be clean too!” The males jumped into the river and washed, yet we females couldn’t do as they did. So we just stood by the river and used a towel to scrub ourselves. After dinner, there was a

meeting in the church. Because there was no electricity, they used a generator to light up the place until we all went to bed (actually bed was a sleeping bag). At this meeting, Pastor Chang asked 2 of us to share why we believe in Jesus and we sang the Malay hymns with the indigenous people all around.

The next day, we didn’t help them do too many things because they kindly said we needed more rest. So we rehearsed the drama of “Peter Meets Jesus” with the 2 theological students, Jeng En and Ai Jin. We practiced the drama and they spoke in Malay with us. After lunch, they drove the 3 vans to the next place. They dropped us down at a place and told us to walk up the mountain because the van couldn’t get through on that road. Even motorcycles can hardly manage it.

So we brought our own stuff and the equipment we needed and started to walk. We took 1 hour walking to the second Kam-



pong. The church there is near to others, unlike the first one we went to, because people nearby had to walk for a while to the church. As we walked to the Kampong, it rained, so we were all wet and tired on arrival. After we arrived we had to clean ourselves using cold water. It was a kind of challenge for us because we don't wash in cold water in Taiwan. By God's grace, after the cold washing, the local people prepared the dinner and warm water for us. That night, there was also a meeting for the people here. As before, Pastor Chang asked 2 of us to share our own testimonies.



The next morning arrived and the local people prepared breakfast for us, toast with a special jam "Kaya" and butter. "Kaya" is a kind of coconut jam. After breakfast, we had activities with the children; we did the drama and made crosses with 5 meaningful colors. After lunch, we started on our way to the last Kampong. Walking back seemed easier for us; we took less time to get to the vans. Surprisingly, the last Kampong was near the place we had got off the vans originally. We stayed in that Kampong for 2 nights. The first day we got there, we only had a meeting in the evening. This time just like before, Pastor Chang asked 2 of us to speak and we sang a song to them. But the next day we had 3 meetings, one for children, one for teenagers and another for everyone there.

On August 28, we had 3 meetings. The first one was for the children. We had drama, cross making and balloon making. In the afternoon, we had 2 of us to speak our own

testimonies to the teenagers. After the speech, we made the crosses and balloons. I discovered that they made the balloons to give to others instead of for themselves.

The last meeting was the most moving one for many of us. We shared that we were really surprised that there were so many

(about 100!) people who came to the meeting. Some of the people had to walk for 1 hour to get to the church. That night, we could really feel that God was with us. We sang new songs in Malay. Some of us said that "even though

the languages are different, yet we are one family in the Lord." This was really important to us. We could feel the difference between Taiwanese and Malaysian people and languages, but the Lord loves every one because every one is made by His hand.

After we arrived back at "Our Savior Church," we all knew that God had not only worked in the hearts of the people from the Kampongs, He also worked in every one of our hearts too. The grace that God gave to us is more than everything we have ever wanted. For all of us, this experience was a nice and beautiful thing because the Lord has done his work in our hearts. I can say that God did everything because we didn't do too much. All we could do was just follow His way.

I am so glad that I had the chance to go to Malaysia and see what God has done in Malaysia and in our hearts. May God's blessing never leave us until we see Him some day in the future!



**SUMMER MISSION PROGRAM:**  
**ADVENT CHURCH OUTREACH TO LAO-MEI VILLAGE**  
**July 7-9, 2009**

"I hope it will be just like Taizé" said Fr. Toon Maes, the 77-year-old Belgian Roman Catholic priest, at the start of the children's mission program in the village of Lao-Mei; "there in Taizé, no one asks if you are Roman Catholic or Protestant". Certainly this is what

happened in Lao-Mei (a coastal village about 6 miles north of Advent Church) as we introduced the gospel to the 43 children who attended every morning for 3 days.

This was a model of ecumenical cooperation! The Roman Catholics have a building, but few people; while the Episcopal Church has lots of people but no building. It seemed obvious that we needed to cooperate. After all, this is a village with no known Christians, and no other churches. Years ago, the R. C. church had come to the area to distribute food and clothes to relieve the suffering of the local people. They are kindly-remembered for their help in time of dire need. Later there was an army base and as some of the soldiers were R. C. members, so the R. C's had built a church and held regular services. On weekdays the church was used as a kindergarten. After the base closed however, and all the soldiers moved away, so the church closed too. These days, the building is still owned by the R. C. church but rented out to a teacher who runs after-school day care and classes for about 20 of the 200 children in the local primary school. The teacher and her extended family, although not Christians, are supportive of the church's attempts to reach



out to the village, and she encouraged all her students to attend the summer camp in place of normal classes.

Fr. Toon Maes came to the summer camp each day, along with his catechist, and one of his church

members, encouraging and fully supporting the evangelistic outreach. Alongside him, the Rev Lennon Chang, his wife, Advent Church members, and about 15 students on the summer mission program came along to run the summer camp. There were games and songs, stories and prayers, activities and fun. Each day the gospel story was presented by the summer mission team in the form of a drama followed by sharing of the gospel and a challenge to the children to respond. On one day, one of the students shared her testimony. Her mother is Indonesian and a Christian and had brought her daughter up to follow the Christian faith. Like many rural areas in Taiwan, these children showed by raising their hands that about 8 of them also had mothers who were from other S. E. Asian countries.

The final day saw a huge water fight when everyone got soaked. It was great fun, and for many of the children it was the highlight of the whole summer camp! And what next? Well, Advent Church is hoping to start a Sunday School in the autumn in Lao-Mei. Please pray for this new venture and for the children who we hope will come along!

## **ADVENT CHURCH, TAMSUI**

*Rev Lennon Chang Yuan-Rung 張員榮牧師*

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### **One Nine-Hundredth**

**I hope you are moved by what has moved her...**

One day this last March, one of our parishioners came to me and said: "Pastor Chang, I am a housewife with no income, but I want to make an offering to our church. I have sold all my gold jewelry which was given to me by my husband at our wedding and I have divided the money into three parts, to donate to three different churches for their building funds. This is one of them. My husband fully supports me in this decision. As my husband gives his love to me, so I am willing to give this offering to the Lord. Although it is not a huge amount, with God's blessing, great things can be accomplished. May many people benefit from this new Church Center."

How gratified I felt when I received the offering from her! In relative terms this offering is tiny, only NT\$ 20,000, and only accounts for **one nine-hundredth** of the construction budget for the new church center. But this offering is precious. It reminds us that Jesus praised the woman who offered her only two coins to the Lord. Hence, I pray to the Lord: **"May God raise up 900 people to do as this generous parishioner has done!"**

**May you become one of these nine hundred people! And may you invite others to become a part of these nine hundred!**

**The land God has given to us:**

**Advent Church** is also called 'The Rt. Rev. James C. L. Wang Memorial Church', and

has been serving the local community for more than 36 years since it opened on February 17, 1973. Over the years the needs of the church, university and local community have grown and changed. Our meeting rooms and facilities at Advent Church are now way too small and inadequate for our growing congregation and outreach programs. In response, we plan to construct a new building named the 'Bishop James Wang Church Center' to facilitate the church with our educational, training, counseling, social, community and evangelistic ministries.

We only need **900 people to play their part as the one nine-hundredth!** With these 900 people, we can accomplish a great marvel—this building will be the center for spiritual growth of the faculty, staff and students of St. John's University; a base for the student chaplaincy ministry, a caring place where a cup of tea is provided for the residents from the local community; a restful place where alumni can visit; a learning place for school children to enjoy their after-school activities; an exciting place for children and young people who come for Sunday school classes, English Bible classes, music band and youth group; a relaxing place for the church members to have lunch after the Sunday services and a place to share their spiritual lives.

The area of the new Bishop James Wang Church Center will be 6480 square feet, with one ground level and one basement level. It will be built in an environmentally-friendly and energy-saving way, with a roof of grass and multi-level planting. The four



Stations of the Cross presently on the site will be also incorporated into the overall design.

### **Bishop James Wang's prayer**

When Bishop James Wang was in hospital nearing the end of his life; from March 29 to April 27, 1970 he wrote this prayer: *My life is nearing its end. In this life, I have found what I wanted to learn, what I wanted to love, and what I hoped for; in my ministry, I have already been rewarded with what I deserved. This life is going to end according to God's natural law unknown to men. If there is another world waiting for me, I definitely will use the experiences I gained in this world to continue my work!*

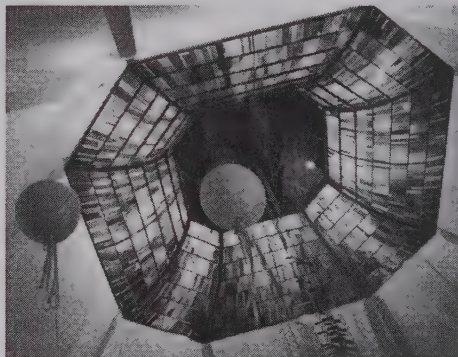
I pray for God's mercy to hear our prayers. Let us continue Bishop Wang's responsibilities to St. John's University and the church's mission to the community.

I look forward to starting the construction of the Bishop James Wang Church Center on April 27, 2010, the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Bishop James Wang's death; and I hope to complete the construction and open its doors by the end of 2010.

The total cost of the project is NT\$18,000,000, which we hope will be raised from church members, friends and alumni, and faculty and staff of St. John's University. Please join us!  
Rev. Lennon Chang, Rector

## **HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARY THANKSGIVING SERVICE AND PARTY FOR TAN BABA AND TAN MAMA: Advent Church August 8, 2009**

### **Many Congratulations!**



## **ST. JAMES' CHURCH, TAICHUNG**

*Rev. Charles Chen Chin-Ti, Rector Emeritus 陳金地顧問牧師*

*Rev. Philip Lin Li-Feng 林立峰牧師 Mr. Philip Ho Jung-Long 何政隆傳道*

[http://www.episcopalchurch.org/81799\\_113377\\_ENG\\_HTM.htm](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/81799_113377_ENG_HTM.htm)

In April 2009, Mr. Peter Ng visited St. James' with a group from Episcopal Church Center in New York, as recorded in the previous issue of Friendship. As a result of that visit, Mr. Peter Ng requested us to write an article about St. James' for the Church Center website. The original article is published below. The published article can be found at the reference above.

It all started with a mango tree! 'A group of Episcopalians in a remote area of the Diocese of Central Philippines have no church building of their own, so they are worshipping under a mango

tree'. When Bishop Manual Lumpias wrote similar words in a letter in 1998 to the then Bishop of Taiwan, John C. T. Chien, he had no idea what the result would be 11 years later. Bishop Chien handed the letter to one of his senior clergy, the Rev. Charles C. T. Chen, then rector of St. James' Episcopal Church, Taichung. Charles remembers the letter and the way it touched his heart. 'The thought of that small Christian community worshipping week after week under a mango tree moved me to want to help them', he says.

The people were Igorot people, originally headhunters, who had moved from the mountainous provinces of the northern Philippines looking for land and work, and had settled in Nueva Ecija, Diocese of Central Philippines. Within a short time St. James' Church had raised the money to build them



a church. The cost? Only US\$ 6,000! The people of St. James' also discovered that the community had no water supply, so they

raised an extra \$3,000 to put in a permanent water supply to help the whole community. That first church, Christ the King, Sandeline, was dedicated on July 27, 1999. But that was only the beginning! Now there are a total of 10 churches in the Diocese of Central Philippines constructed with money raised by St. James' Church. Thank God that the seed sown has indeed produced much fruit!

But what of St. James' Church itself? What about the seed sown that grew to become St. James' Church?

St. James' Church is not the first Anglican / Episcopal Church building in Taichung. From 1895 – 1945, Japan colonized Taiwan and a small Japanese Anglican Church (under the supervision of the Diocese of Osaka) was established, including a small



church in Taichung. There was no indigenous Taiwanese Anglican church at that time. After the Japanese left Taiwan in 1945, all of their Anglican Church buildings were given to other denominations. The Taiwan Episcopal Church was established in 1954, and for many years Episcopalians in Taichung met in the American military compound for English services only.

In 1971 a donation of US\$ 30,000 from Christ Church, Greenville, Diocese of Upper South Carolina (USC), USA, (see photo), matched by an equal amount raised by church members, enabled a church to be built in Taichung. St. James' was one of many missions started by Christ Church under their then rector, Fr. Tom Carson (1964-1979) which continue today to bear fruit for God's Kingdom throughout the world. Another is in the village of Cange, Haiti, which continues to be instrumental in helping to provide medical care and nutritional supplements. Christ Church also has significant mission projects locally in Greenville working with both an inner city neighborhood and the diocesan Hispanic mission.

This original donation from Christ Church was the seed, the beginning of St. James' Church. Five years later, in response to the needs of a growing church kindergarten, another building was constructed at St. James', this time with a large donation from the United Thank Offering (UTO). As retired missionary Rev. Peyton Craighill says, "At the time The Diocese of Taiwan had a very active companion relationship with the Diocese of USC. It was one of the best, if not the best, in the Episcopal Church. With-

out the work of the USC. (and also the UTO) on a number of parish projects, I don't think we would have gotten our diocese off the ground."



Today there are 4 large buildings on the St. James' Church compound, housing Chinese and English congregations, a thriving kindergarten, community service center, counseling center and Language Institute. God has indeed poured out his blessing.

As with the church, so with the country! St. James' is really a microcosm for what has happened in Taiwan as a whole, one of Asia's miracle Tiger economies. As Rev. Charles

Chen says, "In Taiwan, we had nothing and we were so poor. Now we have everything, so it is time for us to help others. Just as Christ Church, South Carolina and the UTO gave so willingly to us in our early days, so we want to express our thanks by sharing our wealth with others."

There is no doubt that Rev. Charles Chen is a man of vision, and has the gift of sharing his vision with others. Four of the churches constructed in the Philippines have been collective church efforts, the others have been donated by church members, all anonymously. One couple, who had started their lives in poverty, through hard work over many years, were able to generously donate money to build 4 churches. One of the churches is named 'Holy Carpenter Church' in honour of the husband's work as a carpenter. Another lady, herself living in rented accommodation, had always dreamed to build a church in Taiwan, but the costs were prohibitive. Instead her dream came

true through her donation of money to build 2 churches in the Philippines. One of these, Christ the Lord Church, had had its original church building washed away by rising sea-levels, so not only did they have no church, they also had no land. Through her own sacrifice of personal comfort and security, this lady was able to both buy the building lot and build the church. Such is the sacrifice that church members of St. James' have been willing to make in order to help those less fortunate than themselves.

These days it no longer costs US\$ 6,000 to build a church; instead inflation has driven the cost up to nearer US\$ 30,000. And yet still the people of St. James' have poured out their hearts and love to the people in the Philippines. The final church building, due to be completed in January 2010 is to be called Grace Church (see photo below), in recognition of the grace that God has given to enable this project to be completed.

Alongside this, St. James' has donated the money to fund construction of a steel canopy for St. James' Church, Anhui, Mainland China, a month of salary for the staff of a seminary in Yunnan province (also Mainland China), training of 3 seminarians in the Diocese of Sabah, Malaysia, and provision of 2 motorcycles for their clergy. More recently St. James' Kindergarten has started to raise money for Africa. Three years ago, the annual fund-raising bazaar held each Mothers Day raised enough to build a church in the Diocese of Central Tanganyika, Tanzania, a building that can be used for worship on Sundays and as a kindergarten the rest of the week. This year, US\$ 3,000 was sent to the Diocese of Kisoro, S. W. Uganda for vulnerable children in the 'Potters Village', and US\$ 2,000 sent to St. Stephen's Mission, in northern Taiwan for outreach work among the poor and needy. Most of the churches in Taiwan can testify to the generosity of St. James' in their own building programs, part of the vision of St. James' to keep a balance between helping those at home and those

abroad. Rev. Charles Chen hopes their example at St James' can inspire other churches in Taiwan and around the world to offer help to others.

None of this could have been possible without God's grace and love, as well as the support of the diocesan bishops, both past and present. In Taiwan, Bishop John Chien and now Bishop David J. H. Lai continue their support to this day. In the Philippines, Bishop Manuel Lumpias, Bishop Benjamin Botengan, and now Bishop Dixie Taclobao have all seen the blessings of God on this partnership. As Bishop Dixie says, "From building the original church at Sandeline, the circle of friendship and partnership for God's mission grew broader, and we thank and praise God for all ten of the churches constructed. May His indwelling Spirit continue to sustain our zeal as participants in His mission and enable us to see this partnership as part of our adventure for God in the midst of today's challenging crises." Fr. Harrison McLeod, rector of Christ Church, USC states that "Christ Church continues to look for opportunities to be Apostles of Christ's love." We give thanks for the opportunities that God has given us in the past, and as we look to the future, may we all continue to serve as Christ Church does, as "Followers of Christ: Faithfully engaged in His mission."



Grace Church, Palawan under construction, September 2009



## DIOCESE OF UPPER SOUTH CAROLINA: REPORT

In researching for the previous article about St. James' Church, the Diocese of Upper South Carolina (USC) kindly sent us a copy of their report written at the time of the companion diocese relationship, 1965-1970. Bishop Lai has requested a summary be included in this Friendship Magazine, as follows:

### 'GO YE INTO ALL THE WORLD': Division of World Mission, Diocese of Upper South Carolina 1965-70

Bishop James C. L. Wang was the first Chinese Bishop of Taiwan, born in 1900 in Mainland China. He had a long and successful career in marine engineering and retired from this career in 1956, although he had been ordained in 1940 as a priest, serving in Hong Kong. In 1960 he became Assistant Bishop of Borneo, then in 1962, he became Bishop of Jesselton, North Borneo (now known as Kota Kinabalu, Sabah). In 1964, Bishop Wong was elected as the first Bishop of Taiwan. After only one week in his new diocese, he left to visit the USA including the Diocese of Upper South Carolina, the first of several visits.

The Ven. Patric Hutton, Archdeacon of Taiwan, also paid 2 visits to USC. He was originally from the USA, and served in Taiwan as a National Council Missionary. His interest in Chinese language and culture was a great influence on the interiors of many of the churches in Taiwan, as he was responsible for designing many of the altars, lecterns and pulpits in Ming Dynasty style. These are still in use today.

The then Bishop of USC, Bishop Pinckney, traveled with his wife and a group from the diocese to visit Taiwan.

The report details that the total monetary gifts sent from USC to Taiwan through 1/4/1968 amounted to US\$ 99,775.04.



The projects included:  
US\$ 30,000 was donated to St. Marks' Church, Ping-Tung to purchase land and erect a church.

US\$ 20,000 was donated to Grace Church, Tainan to purchase adjacent land to the church to build a priest's house and provide basic facilities.

US\$ 25,000 was donated to the Church of the Good Shepherd, Taipei to purchase land and build a church so that the 2 congregations, one worshipping in English and one in Chinese, and both previously located in different places, could worship in the same church building.

US\$ 30,000 was donated to St. James' Church, Taichung to build a church. This project was paid in full by Christ Church, Greenville.

Smaller projects included St. Paul's Kaohsiung, St. Michael's House, St. Matthew's Church, Tainan Theological College for the support of seminarians, and St. John's University.

The report concludes with a description of the tour of Taiwan undertaken by Bishop Pinckney and his group. They were clearly delighted by the exotic and beautiful island of Taiwan and the wonderful welcome they received at each church they visited!

## **St. James' Church News continued:**

### **St. James' Language Center welcomes new teachers**

We give thanks to God that St. James' Language Center has three new teachers, and we warmly welcome them to Taiwan. Two teachers, Rebecca Edwards (Canadian) and Peter Robbins (American) are a part of the newly launched teacher exchange program with Cambridge-Ellis Preschool in Boston, MA, United States. The third teacher, David A. Puckett (American) is appointed to St. James by the Diocese of Taiwan. He will work closely with the leadership of the church, language center and kindergarten to assist with development of the Center and English congregation.

Rebecca Edwards is from Calgary, Alberta, Canada. She graduated in 2009 from Tufts University in Boston with a double major in Child Development and Psychology. This is Rebecca's first trip to Asia and her first teaching position. She arrived in June to work at St. James' Kindergarten Summer Camp, along with Jillian Crosby, also from Cambridge-Ellis Pre-School. Jillian stayed for the summer camps and returned to Boston on August 8. Rebecca stayed on and now teaches the Starfish Class at St. James Kindergarten, first and second grades in the after school program and adults in the evenings.

"I like the people I have met in Taiwan. St. James is very friendly. The school is modern and a great place to work. It's a beautiful country and has great food." says Rebecca. She has become

quite a badminton player since arriving and looks forward to Tuesday nights to play with her many new friends and colleagues.

Peter Robbins is from Pownal, Maine in the United States and arrived in Taiwan in July. This is Peter's first time to Taiwan. Peter graduated from Kenyon College in Ohio, United States in 2007. His major was Chinese Language Studies. Throughout his college years Peter had opportunities to study and travel to mainland China three times. Peter says that during his four trips to Asia, he has "experienced a typhoon, an earthquake, incredible hot and humid days and lots of crazy traffic."

Peter's says, "the people in Taiwan are incredibly friendly, teachers are very helpful and students are very fun and smart." He especially likes mountain climbing and recently climbed Yuan Zui Shan.

Peter teaches the Raccoon Class at St. James Kindergarten, first and fifth grades classes in the after school program and adults in the evenings.

David Puckett has nearly 30 years experience working as Minister of Music, Christian Education and Youth and as Organist

and Choir-master in large churches in the US. He is an experienced teacher of young children most recently as founder, co-owner and headmaster of Bai Da Wei Lan-





guage Institutes in Changchun, Jilin which began in 2000. Ba Da Wei is David's Chinese name. His experience as a performer, conductor, clinician, author, composer and teacher is enhanced by his B.A. in music from Asbury College in Wilmore, KY and graduate studies at Asbury Theological Seminary, Fuller Theological Seminary and Yale Institute of Sacred Music.

David is not new to Taichung having spent one year there during college as a missionary intern with Oriental Missionary Society. He taught English and music at Zhong Tai Seminary located on Lin Sen Street. David appeared as a soloist, director, judge and host on several television shows while in China. He hosted a 16 weeks' television series in Jilin in 2006 and received national

recognition for his contribution to the city of Changchun through television and education.

This new semester at St. James' Language Center begins with many new classes including all levels of study for children, youth and adults. Plans are in the works for starting an English Language Children's Choir and a youth contemporary culture class. A curriculum committee will soon begin to develop textbooks and songs specifically for use at St. James' Language Center. Please keep the new teachers, staff, students and leadership of the Center in your prayers.

### **ST. JAMES' ENGLISH CONGREGATION: Rev. Canon David Chee**

The summer months are over and activities at St. James' English Congregation are back in full swing. Both Sunday School and choir practice have resumed with renewed interest and gusto!

#### **Church News:**

Sunday Brunch following Fellowship Hour on October 4. David Puckett, newly arrived to St. James', invites the congregation to his apartment for "The Blessing of the House." Dating back to the earliest days of Christianity, the ritual protected inhabitants from evil spirits. Since Mid-Autumn Festival is on Oct. 3 this year and marks the end of Ghost Month, this is a fitting time. We won't be exorcising ghosts but praying for protection, peace and hospitality to be upon the house. David will provide a brunch meal for those who will attend.

Hold the Date: Sunday November 22 – Day of Reflection. Church wide retreat with members of Good Shepherd Eng-

lish Congregation. Details about this event will be announced soon.

Advent Lessons and Carols – Sunday morning, December 20. The choir will lead this traditional service of Scripture Readings and Carols. This beautiful musical service will be on the fourth Sunday in Advent during morning worship hour.

Rev. Chee held acolyte training on August 31 for new acolytes. This year's class includes: Kathy Ho, Serena Lai, Lilian Lai and Kelvin Paul. We are very excited and happy to see so many young people participate in this very important part of our worship service.

And finally, we congratulate Jerry Liang (Director of St. James' Language Institute and Warden of the English congregation), his wife Jean and son Anthony on Anthony's wedding at St. James' Church on September 26.

## ST. JAMES' CHINESE CONGREGATION

Rev. Philip Lin is spending this term, September to December 2009, studying at Ming-Hua Theological College, Hong Kong. Philip is the third priest in the diocese to have this opportunity, and we are very grateful to the Diocese of Hong Kong and Bishop David Lai for enabling this to happen. Philip's wife, Linda and their 2 small children remain at St. James'. Please do pray for Philip and his family.

During this period, Bishop Lai has appointed Evangelist Philip Ho, newly graduated from seminary, to assist at St. James' Church. We welcome him to St. James'!

On August 1, a new Youth Group started at St. James'. At the first meeting 6 young people came, and by the end of the month over 20 young people were coming along. On the final Saturday evening of August, 33 people came, including parents who helped with the making of suei-jiao dumplings. The age range covers from 5th grade in elementary school to graduate school, a wide range! Most are the children of church members or kindergarten teachers. The young people have elected their own chairperson and the person that they have chosen is Miss Wu Shin-Pei who was one of the group who recently went to Malaysia on the



diocesan mission team. Evangelist Philip Ho hopes that the young people will learn to treat each other as members of God's family, as brothers and sister in the family of Christ.

On Friday evenings, St. James' has a small group fellowship. This is a relaxing time for sharing together with a Bible study and reflection. About 20 people come along regularly.

A new project at St. James's is the Adult Sunday School, held twice a month on Sunday afternoons. The leaders are Rev David Chee and Evangelist Philip Ho who take it in turns to lead the teaching sessions. The theme is 'Questions of Faith'. 20-25 regularly attend.

At the special service to mark the beginning of the new school year, held on Sunday August 31, a total of 102 people attended the service. It was very crowded, praise God!

The photo above shows the confirmation service held on August 2. Left photo shows fellowship and sharing time at St. James'.





## ST. PETER'S CHURCH, CHIA-YI

*Rev. Keith Lee Jen-Cheng 李鎮丞牧師*

We thank God for the location of St. Peter's Church! On the first weekend after Typhoon Morakot we were able to welcome a large group of students from St. John's University and other church members, about 20 in total, who came to help with the Red Cross relief work. We provided the hospitality and the transport to and from the Red Cross base in Chia-Yi County Government, and also transported some of the goods up into the mountains above Tzeng-Wen Reservoir. We were happy to help in any way we could!

This all happened the same weekend, August 15-16, that Bishop Lai came to hold a confirmation service at St. Peter's. 2 young people were confirmed, shown here



in the photo standing either side of Bishop Lai.

The groups helping at the Red Cross included the Diocesan Youth Mission Team who then led the children's summer camp at St. Peter's from August 17-19.

There were close on 70 children who attended the camp, mostly students at St. Peter's and we also had some children coming

in from the local community through special invitation. A fun time was had by everyone, as you can see from the photo below.



We also thank God for the summer elementary school classes at St. Peter's. Every day

between 40-50 children started their day with prayer and a bible story in the church.



## **TRINITY CHURCH, KEELUNG**

*Rev. Richard Lee Ray-Chiang 李瑞強牧師*



Here at Trinity Church we praise God that we have just finished our second 'Grace Encounter' Program. This is an evangelistic program, with teaching very similar to the Alpha Course, but adapted for use in Asia by the Korean Church and now used widely in Taiwan. About 100 churches all over Taiwan are now following this program. This past semester we welcomed 22 adult and 16 Senior High School students to Trinity for this program.

A new activity at Trinity is our Friday evening adult fellowship. This is very relaxed with some Bible teaching, prayer and meditation. Over 10 people now come regularly.

The highlight of the summer vacation was our Young People's Community Service Bicycle Trip to Ilan, on the East Coast. Many of our young people are from disadvantaged homes, and have little chance to do activities like this. For 6 days and 5 nights in July, a group of 16 young people and 5 adults from Trinity Church cycled to Ilan. The actual cycling took a total of 3 days. When we arrived in Ilan we spent several days helping at

the Eden Community Service Centre, a Christian organization, where residents are physically disabled and in generally poor health. For our young people to serve in this way was a wonderful experience for them. For them to actually be able to accomplish a whole 6 days from beginning to end was a great training for them in patience and perseverance. They also had excellent training in cooperating together, working together as a team. Now they are keen to go again next year. Next year we



hope to plan another trip, this time further afield, maybe to Hsinchu on the west coast. The photos show what a great time we had!





## **ST. STEPHEN'S MISSION, KEELUNG**

*Mrs. Julia Lin Shu-Hua 林淑華傳道*

St. Stephen's is presently using rented property right in the center of the Da-Ching Da-Cheng Housing Complex. It has always been our vision to be able to purchase somewhere that would give us a more permanent presence in the complex. Earlier this year the diocese applied to the Episcopal Church for a grant from the United Thank Offering to purchase a property for St. Stephen's to use. We are delighted that our application has been accepted and we have been awarded US\$ 50,000 from UTO. This is given on the understanding that the diocese will also contribute a similar amount towards the costs. At this stage, we are still praying and searching for the right property. We would very much value your prayers for the right property to become available at the right time, price and location. Thank you!



Other news from St. Stephen's is that HSBC Bank and ASUS Computer Company have cooperated to donate 16 computers to centers in Taiwan that are working with disadvantaged people. We at St Stephen's have been fortunate enough to receive 2 of these computers for our community programs.

We are most grateful to these companies for their generosity.



We have now established a regular program of worship, fellowship, Bible studies and outreach at St. Stephen's. We thank God for the evangelism among our young people and we are grateful to the seminarians and to our Christian brothers and sisters for sharing the gospel with our young people. We now have 8 young people who have made decisions to follow Christ.

## **ST. LUKE'S CHURCH, HUALIEN**

*Mr. Joseph Wu 吳明龍會吏*

St. Luke's has no resident church worker, although Mr. Joseph Wu spends the weekends in Hualien. He leads a prayer meeting on Saturday evenings and the Sunday worship. Rev. Enoch Lee goes to Hualien on

the third Sunday of every month for the Eucharist. Mr. Joseph Wu himself will start as a full-time seminarian at Fu-Jen University on September 14, and will continue to spend the weekends at St. Luke's.

## ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL, TAIPEI

*Rev. Samuel Lin Ying-Chiou 林應求牧正*

Thanks be to God! On July 12 after the Sunday Service, Dean Lin and his wife held a thanksgiving banquet to celebrate the 25th anniversary of his ordination as priest. All the church is grateful to God and joyful with him.



Also, there are quite a few things happening in the Cathedral, making us excited and grateful.

Firstly, concerning the Discipleship College (Vision of Global Evangelization) as follows:

a) 18 people attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> term of the Beta Advanced Course (see photo above), which is held for those who have completed the Alpha Course. There will be a ceremony on September 20 for those who have completed the course. In turn, the 10<sup>th</sup> term of the Alpha Course is going to be held starting on September 30.

B) 19 people attended the "intercession course", which is part of the Discipleship Course. Further, following the intercession course, the Intercession Group of St. John's Cathedral is now going to start. Also, the 'Christian Soldier Course' is going to start on October 11, which is for those who have finished the training of the Discipleship Course.

Secondly, at the Cathedral, we now have a team of 14 ushers, who are trained to take care of newcomers and to accompany them until those newcomers become familiar

with the church and attend one of the Home Groups.

Thirdly, besides those courses run in the College of Discipleship, there are Home Groups, run as small family church units in the Cathedral to practice the Great Commandments, to love one another, and to fulfill the Great Commission, global evangelization. There are 3 Home Groups run at this stage, each is about 10 plus people. In addition, a new one is about to start on September 24.

By the Grace of God and as a result of our teaching and training program, there are 12 people who are going to be baptized on November 1. Most of the adults in this group have finished the Alpha course. Also, there are 14 young people who will receive confirmation on November 15.

Please do pray for our ministry and those people we are reaching out to. Moreover, please pray for the construction of the new pipe organ and the training of organists.



## **GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH, TAIPEI**

*Rev. Lily Chang Ling-Ling 張玲玲牧師, English Chaplain: Rev. Diane Wong*

### **Love Taiwan: Learning though Flood Relief**

**By Chen Yin-An, Chinese congregation**

This summer, I receive a burden from God to love Taiwan. It is not easy to love this land. It is embarrassing to say “I love Taiwan” and it is not easy to find a way and practice to show you love Taiwan. At the beginning, therefore, I thought it is hard to bear the burden of this love from God.

However, on August 8, 2009, the floods in the southern area of Taiwan caused by Typhoon Morakot resulted in a lot of people losing their lives and their families, damage to crops and flooded homes. It is the biggest typhoon disaster in Taiwan in 50 years. Taiwanese people around the world are full of love and they enthusiastically donated their money, and goods such as foods, clothes and so on for the relief effort. Maybe these donations resulted from the Buddhist idea of Transmigration (reincarnation), but they did it and they practiced it. Being a student, I did not have any surplus money to give and donate to them. But being a Christian, I receive God’s love and it is my treasure that I can share with other people. When I heard the call to help from Pastor Lily, I decided to sacrifice my labor and time to do and show Jesus’ love.

On August 14, I went to Kaohsiung and, along with brothers and sisters from St. Timothy’s Church, we went into the stricken, water-flooded area in Pingtung County. When we arrived at this place, Lin-Bien, it was already the seventh day after the typhoon and floods. However, there was still mud everywhere around the village, in the houses, at the roadside. The first day, we worked to help local people clean and sort out their homes and lives. It was a big challenge for me, I have never seen such a place before so full of dirt and I have seldom ever cleaned anything like this. I disre-

garded my mysophobia (a fear of dirt) and bent myself down to the earth. Brush! Wash! Move! Cleanse!

When we finished our first day of work, I was too tired to do anything else and just wanted to do one thing—to sleep. Although my body was fatigued, my mind and mood were very cheerful. My service to help these people was not done with the hope of getting any response or gaining any good karma. As it says in 2 Corinthians 5: 14-15, “For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.” My service did not just spring from sympathy, but more importantly, it is from Jesus. He made me and raised me to love Taiwan.

On August 15 and 16, I went with the fellowship of St. John’s University to sort, order and redistribute relief for the Red Cross in Chia-yi County. Carts of materials from all over Taiwan were crowded into Chia-yi government building. We unloaded lots of packages and boxes, sorted out the contents and redistributed all the things. In fact, it was a boring and trivial thing to have to do. However, I also know that it was an exercise in doing as the Bible says, “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much”.

This past summer, I profoundly experienced loving Taiwan, not by saying but by doing. I love Taiwan by doing.

## GOOD SHEPHERD ENGLISH CONGREGATION

By Mary Reyes, church member

Most of our members live in Taiwan for limited periods of time—thus it is a common event for the English-speaking congregation to say “goodbye”. We are anticipating a particularly poignant send-off when our priest, Rev. Diane Wong, leaves Taiwan in November 2010. Diane is deeply committed to unifying our congregation and helping us to grow. We will miss her.

We are currently tackling the challenge of finding a priest to take over when Diane departs. Following the pattern of Episcopal congregations in the USA, we have formed a Search Committee to facilitate the process. We are assisting Bishop Lai in trying to locate suitable candidates. We are “casting our nets widely”—searching not only through the Episcopal Church USA, but also through our sister diocese in Canada and global Anglican missions organizations.

Please pray with us for God’s will. At the end of each of our Sunday services, we pray together:

*Living God, our Creator and Provider, we lift up to you the search for our next priest. Please provide the right priest for us who will help us become what you desire. May this leader arrive before Diane leaves Taiwan, if it is your will.*

*Guide our congregation and the Search*

*Committee by your Holy Spirit, giving us wisdom and discernment as we make decisions about how to proceed.*

*We thank you for Diane's ongoing ministry with us. Please lead her to the next position that you would have for her.*

*May you be glorified not only in the outcome of our search, but through the process as well. Help us to remain focused on you, unified in our love for you and active in our love for one another. Through Jesus Christ, our Good Shepherd, we pray. Amen.*

The other side of being a mostly transient congregation is that we also say “hello” often. It is joyful and exciting when new people enter our community and share their unique gifts with us. May God draw a leader to us who can build on the work Diane is doing and direct our future development. We look forward to warmly welcoming this person.



If you have any connections to English-speaking priests who would consider serving in Taiwan, please let us know. Thank you.

Mary Reyes, Search Committee Member :  
2-2871-2266 or  
marylaurareyes@gmail.com.

## ST. ANDREW'S KINDERGARTEN, JIE-DING

*Mr. Simon Tsou Tsai-Shin 鄒才新傳道*

Evangelist Simon Tsou has been appointed by Bishop Lai to St. Andrew's Kindergarten. On Saturdays and Sundays he helps Rev. June Chou at St. Paul's Church in Kaohsiung. He reports that there are 90 children this semester in the kindergarten and asks for prayer for the new students who have started. Simon also leads a house

group quite faraway at Ren-De, at the home of one of the church members of St. Paul's. Please pray for Simon and his wife as they settle in. Simon's wife was previously principal of the kindergarten at St. John's Cathedral, Taipei. Now they are living in a very remote rural coastal village; what a contrast to central Taipei City!



## ST. MARK'S CHURCH, PING-TUNG

*Mr. James Su 蘇國欽傳道*

### Encountering Jesus in the Women of St. Mark's Church

I was appointed to St. Mark's, Pingtung, this past May. While adapting to the environment of this new ministry field, I met a group of women (some of whom work in full-time jobs and some of whom are retired) willing to offer themselves to the Lord. As I became involved, I met Jesus in them.

These women are seldom seen on the front stage. They do not give the sermon on Sundays nor lead the children in Bible camp. Rather, they appear in the kitchen among the greasy pots and pans, in the chitter-chatter of the cafeteria, in the market under the hot and humid sun, and in the smell of dishwashing detergents. Whenever there is a gathering in the Name of the Lord, there they are feeding the people, big or small.

Other times, they are found with their hands in the dirt. The church has a patio and a garden which they embellish regularly with weeding and raking. They have also joined the relief efforts by helping the victims of Typhoon Morakot reconstruct their homeland. With their rain boots one-foot-deep in the mud where entire areas were flooded, these are mostly older women who despite their knee problems, persisted through the pain to give a helping hand.

Apart from all the heavy work that they do, they also do quiet work, investing time and care in the set-up of the altar. Their piety can be felt as I watch them iron and fold out the altar cloths, as they shine the communion silver, and arrange the flowers. These are rituals that speak of utmost reverence and beauty week after week.

In addition, they do not forget to meet for

Bible Studies here at the church or attend training meetings and fellowship of the Southern churches. Their early arrival and complete focus and involvement are of great encouragement to me and each other, as sometimes the work day is long and the road trip back and forth likewise.



Spanish artist, Diego Velazquez, composed a painting called "Kitchen Maid with the Supper of Emmaus" or originally in Spanish, "La Mulata", 1618. It shows a maid in the

foreground about to pick up a water jar, perhaps to use it to pour water for the three men who are in the background—Jesus and two of his disciples. Through the composition of a frame within a frame, we can see a holy scene encased in a mundane one, which although heavily Spanish in taste, is ecumenical in faith. The mulata maid, a person born of black and white parents, is very likely Spanish in origin and the men portrayed to be Jesus and his disciples may or may not be them. But, the artist wants us to see Jesus and his friends in context in the people that we meet and serve everyday.

Just as the eyes of the disciples were opened to see the resurrected Lord that day, we are called to ask our Heavenly Father to open our eyes to see the Lord Jesus in the people that we serve. The maid serves the Lord in the things that she does, just as it is written in the Scriptures, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." (Matthew 25: 40b, NRSV) It is also written, "But I am among you as one who serves." (Luke 22: 27b) The women of St. Mark have followed Christ's example as one who serves. And it is in them that I saw Jesus.

## **ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, KAOHSIUNG.**

*Rev. June Chou Yun-Guang 周韞光牧師*

The Southern Deanery held a summer camp in good weather for 28 teenagers in Kaohsiung Activity Center. 6 of these young people were from St. Paul's. The Southern Deanery elementary school children's summer camp, for 54 children (see photo below) was also held at the Kaohsiung Activity Center, but in bad weather, as Typhoon Morakot was approaching!

We offer special congratulations to one of our church members, Mr. Chi Shiao-Yuan, introduced in a previous Friendship Maga-

zine, who has started this semester as a diocesan seminarian, studying at Fu-Jen R. C. University, Taipei. He is assigned to Good Shepherd for weekends for fieldwork.

Sad news from St. Paul's is the death of our Bishop's Committee Chairman, Mr. Hu Chao-Jong, who died on July 16. A memorial service was held on August 5, attended by more than 200 people, including his colleagues from China Steel Cooperation, Bishop Lai and 10 clergy. Please pray for Mr. Hu's family, his wife and 2 children.



## **GRACE CHURCH, TAINAN**

*Rev. Sam Cheng Ching-San 鄭慶三牧師*

Grace Church has held 2 family services over the summer months in the homes of church members. On July 12 retired priest, Rev. Ou and his wife welcomed 23 people from Grace Church to their home, followed on August 16, when the Chairman of the Bishop's Committee welcomed everyone.

We thank God for the children's summer camp, part of the diocesan summer mission program, and for the 35 children who came along. Many of these were from Grace Church after-school classes for elementary

school children.

One of the highlights for us this summer was the Table Tennis Competition, held with 3 churches, St. Timothy's, St. Mark's and Grace Church, on August 30. About 50 people in total came along to St. Timothy's for that special time together.

In our weekly Bible studies, we have now completed all four gospels and we are starting the Book of Acts.



## **ST. TIMOTHY'S CHURCH, KAOHSIUNG**

*Rev. Justin Lin Jun-Ming 林俊明牧師*

We have been very busy at St. Timothy's this summer, and we thank God that we had many chances to help with the relief work after Typhoon Morakot. In the first days after the typhoon we went to Lin-Bien in Ping-Tung County to help with the cleaning. From St. Timothy's it is about an hour's drive. On the first day, about 14 of us went, and on the second day, 24 people went. Seminarian Mr. Cheng, assigned to St. Timothy's for the summer, has an uncle living in Lin-Bien whose home was flooded, so we were also able to help him and his neighbours.

For the last year we have been regularly visiting Jia-Shian, up in the mountains and in an area badly affected by the typhoon. Over the past year we have held a total of 6 different activities for the children of Jia-Shian, in their elementary school. In July, before the typhoon, we held 2 children's activities, one in Jia-Shian Elementary School and one in a nearby school, Bao-Long. Because of the contacts that we made then, we were able to visit those families after the

typhoon and offer help and encouragement to them. We held 2 different activities for the local children, encouraging them to have courage and not be afraid. These were held in the lobby of a local hotel, who kindly donated their space free of charge. We did not work through the elementary school this time, rather we handed out fliers on the streets and passed the news by word of mouth. About 25 children and their parents came along each time, and all had a very positive response.

Our long term plan is that we can start to do more evangelistic work in the Jia-Shian area. There are very few Christians there. Until now we have mostly worked in cooperation with the principal of the elementary school, but in order to do more active gospel outreach we will need to find a place more suited to that purpose. Every week we are leading a children's activity to encourage those children. Our ultimate aim is to establish a church in that area, and we would appreciate your prayers and support.

## **ALL SAINTS CHURCH, KANG-SHAN**

*Rev. Leo Tzeng Wen-Bin 曾文斌牧師*

Here at All Saints, our second and third terms of adult Sunday School have been completed. We have finished 'Introduction to Old Testament Prophets', and now in our 4th term we are starting 'Liturgy of the Episcopal Church'. There are about 10 people who regularly come along. Our weekly Bible studies are now starting the Book of Romans.

Every weekend we have a children's joy

camp with songs and games, Bible story and activities (see photo).



dren from the 'an-chin ban' school located on the All Saints site. This school holds after-school classes for elementary school children.

In the summer mission program, our children's summer camp was held the same week as the one in Grace Church. At All Saints we had about 60 children attend, including the chil-

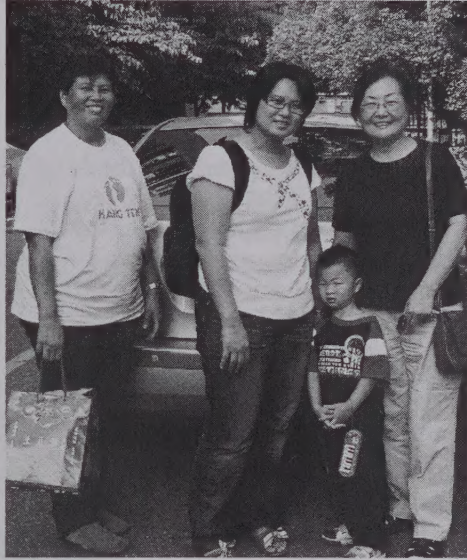
**Greetings from Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia:**  
**'The Land Below The Wind'.**  
**Evelyn Wong: Principal of Good Samaritan Kindergarten,**  
**Kota Kinabalu, Sabah.**

I thank God for the privilege of visiting Taiwan with my daughter Audrey and my 3-year old grandson Daniel. We stayed in Taiwan for 12 days and we were warmly welcomed and blessed throughout our visit. This was my actually my third visit to Taiwan, the first time as a teenager with my father. On my second visit in 2003 I came with Yvette Lu, a teacher from Good Shepherd Kindergarten in Sandakan, Sabah, and we stayed at St. Paul's Kindergarten for a few days as guest of Rev. Michael and Mrs. Liou, and then at St. James' Kindergarten for a month as guests of the Rev. Charles Chen and his wife. It was good to be able to return to Taiwan once again.

In St. John's University, we met with Rev. Lennon Chang and Hannah. Both of them have great vision for the church, university and the children's church. Rev. Lennon Chang had arranged a short term mission trip with about 20 university students to go to West Malaysia. We met some of them at a home fellowship and were able to share with them about mission in Malaysia. I believe God will work great and mighty things in that place.

St. John's University is a beautiful place with lots of opportunities to share the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. We were also able to see how the children's English class was conducted. The children were very lively. They were learning English through the gospel story which was translated by a university student. Praise God for raising up some university students to help out in the praise and worship.

We met Principal Linda and Rev. Lily Chang at Good Shepherd Church in Taipei. Principal Linda showed us around the kindergarten, which is also supervised by Bishop Lai's wife, Lily. The children were



very creative and musically inclined. They have great and dedicated teachers.

We met Rev. Elizabeth Wei (seen here on the right - with us in the photo above), Rev. Michael Liou and his wife, Rev. Sam Cheng and Julie, all of whom kindly treated us for lunches, dinners and sight seeing. All of them have Sabah connections stretching back over many years. Rev. Elizabeth Wei had met my son-in-law, Rev. Paul Lau, many years ago when she spent a month in Sabah, and Julie had come to visit Sabah a few years ago and stayed with me. Altogether Rev. Michael Liou has visited Sabah 4 times, and his wife 6 times, so we have got to know them both very well, and regard them as good friends. Over the years Mrs. Liou has run many workshops for kindergarten teachers in Sabah, and it was through her that I was able to visit St. James' Kindergarten in 2003.

We also spent a few days at St. James' Church and Kindergarten. We thank Rector Emeritus Rev. Charles Chen and



wife, Rev. Philip Lin and his wife, and Principal You-Mei Chang for their hospitality and their sharing. We are very encouraged by what we saw there. God has indeed opened the doors for the gospel to reach to the parents of the kindergarten and the kindergarten teachers. I saw that many teachers have turned their hearts to Jesus Christ.

I saw God's blessing upon St. James' Church and it's kindergarten under the dedicated, humble and faithful leaders. The verse that impressed my heart for St. James' Church and the kindergarten is Romans 8:28 : 'For we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose'. Early morning prayer meetings and lunch-time Bible classes have helped teachers further understand the love of Jesus for them.

## **MY MEMORABLE VISIT TO AI WEE-DAH'S GRAVE IN GUAN-DU**

**By Shelagh Wynne**

Ever since Catherine Lee invited me to Taiwan to visit her and see Gladys Aylward's grave, I have wanted to come. So, August '09 was planned, on my return trip to Thailand following my Home Assignment!

On my very first morning, Catherine took me to meet Bishop David Lai, where he kindly drove us the 4 miles to Gladys' burial site at Christ's College in Guan-Du, on the outskirts of Taipei City. It was impressive to see her photo there at 68 years of age. Ai Wee-Dah (艾偉德), as she was affectionately known, earned her Chinese citizenship in 1941, after serving the Lord in Mainland China from 1928 until she safely led over 100 orphans across the mountain ranges and Yangtze River through enemy-held territory to Xi'an (1943). After she was forced to leave Mainland China, World Vision wanted her to travel in the west, sharing her personal stories of God's provision.

So, in 1958, just 6 months after I asked Je-

We also had the privilege to visit Bishop Lai in his office. We were treated to lunch with his wife Lily. Bishop Lai is a kind, patient and humble person. He is a man of wisdom. Praise God for Bishop Lai and his wife. I believe that the Episcopal Church under him will soar to greater heights.

My visit to many churches in Taipei has opened my eyes to see God at work in the lives of the people in Taiwan. God has blessed the church with many new workers and clergy. God has raised up a generation of His own faithful children who will serve in spirit and in truth. The harvest is ripe and God is sending out his people to the field already. Indeed we serve a living and mighty God. Amen.

sus into my heart at 9 years of age, I heard Gladys speak at our Church in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, where my father was the Pastor. In this semi-circular Church, we children sat at one side, ready to exit for Sunday School - but we were given permission to stay and listen to this 'special missionary speaker'. About 3 minutes before the service began, 3 men came in and placed a large box behind the pulpit. We wondered what it was for, but when Gladys rose to speak, she had to stand on this box so the people out front could see her! So, seeing this short adult, she sure had my full attention!

Gladys told us many stories, but towards the end, she asked, "I am getting too old to return to China, but who will go and tell them about the love of Jesus?" She began to cry and to my childish memory, it seemed that she wept all over the pulpit! Just at that instant, the Holy Spirit spoke to me, changing my desire from being a nurse, to being a



missionary nurse, so I could tell others about Jesus wherever I was. Gladys came back to our home for lunch and Dad took my photo with her. Even then at 9 1/2 years of age, I was taller than Gladys! Truly she was 'The Small Women' as her biography is entitled! And FYI- her story is romanticized in the 1958 classic film, 'Inn of the Sixth Happiness', now recently re-formatted on DVD.

### Gladys Aylward



nese people, both in mainland China and then in Taiwan. In the beginning, Gladys was rejected by several missionary societies of her day, because she "did not have any useful skills or training to offer"! But God knew better - for Gladys persevered with the language, highly motivated to express the deep love of a Living God and in return, she herself was greatly loved.

In 1970, in the middle of my London UK nurses' training, I was tidying up an out-patient clinic ready for the ante-natal mothers' arrival. Finishing early, I started flicking through a newspaper backwards and came across the obituaries and read a very short one about Gladys having died of pneumonia in Taipei, and being buried here. God's timing for me again!

On her head stone, in both Chinese and English, is the verse from

John 12:24, "...Unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds." Praise be to our Lord for her life and love for our Lord! And her example that God can use ALL of us to share His love to those around us!

After Bishop Lai thoughtfully took photos for me, I requested him to pray, and thank God for Gladys' life and the inspiration she has been to so many down the decades. God used a seemingly insignificant British parlour maid to be His Ambassador to the Chi-

(Written by Shelagh Wynne, who has had the pleasure of sharing Christ's love, as she has trained and handed her responsibilities over to nurses in Nepal, Bhutan and Israel).

### AND FINALLY: SWINE FLU H1N1

Due to the rapid spread of Swine Flu H1N1 this year, we would appreciate your prayers for those who are suffering, and for church and school activities that are either cancelled or severely affected as a result. The government stipulates that if 2 or more students or pupils in the same class are diagnosed with H1N1 then that class must be closed for a week, and classes made up in the winter vacation. Already this has hap-

pened in many schools and universities, and many people are worried about the implications. Bishop Lai has instructed that there should be no shaking of hands at the Peace during the Eucharist, rather we bow to each other. The present custom of each communicant dipping the communion bread into the cup of wine can be continued. We commit the situation to Almighty God and pray for those directly affected.



# 臺灣聖公會通訊

馬智仁



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The LORD bless you  
and keep you always!